

Appl. No. 09/976,182
Amdt. Dated March 1, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 4, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (presently amended): A disposable pull-on undergarment which comprises:

a liquid pervious top sheet;

a liquid impervious back sheet;

a liquid absorbent core interposed between the top and back sheets;

front and rear waist-encircling regions opposed to each other and having longitudinal side edges that are joined together, at least one of said front and rear waist-encircling regions being elastically contractible in a waist-encircling direction;

a crotch region positioned between the front and rear waist-encircling regions;

a waist-encircling opening; and

a pair of leg-encircling openings,

said front and rear waist-encircling regions each comprising:

first elasticized zones which extend in the waist-encircling direction between each of the joined side edges of the front and rear waist-encircling regions and an adjacent side edge of the liquid absorbent core, said first elasticized zones having heights which extend in a longitudinal direction of the undergarment and

a second elasticized zone which traverses a width of the liquid absorbent core and

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extends in the waist-encircling direction between opposite side edges of the liquid absorbent core, said second elasticized zone having a height which extends in the longitudinal direction of the undergarment,

the first and second elasticized zones being adjacent to one another in the waist-encircling direction so that heights of ones of the first and second elasticized zones that are adjacent to one another in the waist-encircling direction are substantially coextensive along the waist-encircling direction and the first elasticized zones having a tensile stress that is greater than a tensile stress of the second elasticized zone.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The disposable pull-on undergarment of Claim 1, further comprising:

waist elastic members extending in the waist-encircling direction are attached in an extended condition to an edge portion of the waist-encircling opening; and

a plurality of auxiliary elastic members spaced longitudinally apart from each other and extending in the waist-encircling direction in the first and second elasticized zones, said plurality of auxiliary elastic members being attached in an extended condition to a location between the waist elastic members and the edge portions of the leg-encircling openings,

a tensile stress of the auxiliary elastic members is greater in the first elasticized zone than in the second elasticized zone.

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Claim 3 (previously presented): The disposable pull-on undergarment of Claim 1, further comprising:

waist elastic members extending in the waist-encircling direction that are attached in an extended condition to an edge portion of the waist-encircling opening;

a plurality of first auxiliary elastic members spaced longitudinally apart from each other and extending in the waist-encircling direction in the first and second elasticized zones, which plurality of first auxiliary elastic members are attached in an extended condition to a location intermediate between the waist elastic members and the edge portions of the leg-encircling openings; and

a plurality of second auxiliary elastic members spaced longitudinally apart from each other and extending in the waist-encircling direction in the first elasticized zone that are attached in an extended condition to a location intermediate between the waist elastic members and the edge portions of the leg-encircling openings,

a tensile stress of the first auxiliary elastic members being smaller than or equal to that of the second auxiliary elastic members.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The disposable pull-on undergarment of Claim 1 wherein said first elasticized zones when extended to a maximum extent exhibit an extension stress in a range of 0.2 to 2.0 N/25 mm and said second elasticized zone when extended to a maximum extent

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exhibits an extension stress in a range of 0.1 to 0.6 N/25 mm.

Claims 5- 8 (canceled)